Import of wheat

1220. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state whether Government propose to import wheat to replenish its dwindling foodgrains reserves; if so, the quantity proposed to be imported, and the country from which it is to be imported?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): Yes, Sir; a quantity of one million tonnes of wheat will be imported from USA with a view to replenishing the buffer stocks.

Import of maize for poultry sector

1221. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government to import maize required for poultry feed and for its distribution to the poulty farmers;

(b) whether it is a fact that four lakh tons of maize is being imported under US aid programme and if so, the quantity of maize earmarked for the poultry sector;

(c) what tangible arrangement has been made to ensure that the supply reaches the actual poultry farmers; and

(d) whether Government have deceided upon any amount to be charged from the poultry farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) An agreement has been reached on the supply donated by the USA of 75,000 tonnes of corn (maize) to National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) and 25,000 tonnes of corn to National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). The corn to be supplied to NAFED will be used for human consumption, poultry and animal sector needs.

(c) The bulk of the corn will be distributed through the Government Sponsored Organisations and Cooperatives.

(d) The corn for poultry/animal sector needs will be at a price fixed by the Government but not less than the support price announced by the Government for maize.

Recovery of lease amount from Meridian and other hotels

1222. SHRI RAMSING BHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have to realise outstanding lease amounts, due from Hotel Meridian and many other big hotels, concerns and individuals;

(b) if so, what are the details of amounts accrued and since when these have accumulated;

(c) what are the reasons for their accumulation and the reasons for not recovering or realising them so far; and

(d) by when and in what manner these amounts would be recovered and realised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d) The licence agreement with the Meridian hotel has been entered into by the NDMC and not by the Government. Regarding the outstanding lease amounts from other parties to the Land and Development Officer, the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.